

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

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O P 121715Z MAR 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8716

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1919

EXDIS

IO FOR ASST SECY LEWIS AND MOREY; PASS LABOR FOR SEGALL, HOROWITZ,
AND QUACKENBUSH; PASS COMMERCE FOR UPTON

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO PORG

SUBJECT: DUTCH REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS ON US-ILO POLICY

REF: (A) THE HAGUE 930, (B) BELGRADE 1613

1. IN CONNECTION WITH PROPOSED CONSULTATION ON US-ILO POLICY
BETWEEN AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN AND GON FONMIN, REMARKS OF EC
SOHNS, GON MEMBER OF ILO GOVERNING BODY TO RANDALL UPTON OF USDEL
AT MARCH GOVERNING BODY SESSION ARE OF INTEREST.

2. SOHNS TOLD UPTON ON MARCH 2 THAT GON FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD
DELIVER GON'S OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO US LETTER OF INTENT TO
AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN WHEN HE CAME TO THE HAGUE. SOHNS ALSO
REFERRED TO "GENTELMEN'S AGREEMENT" IN 1966 BETWEEN ILO DIRECTOR
GENERAL DAVID MORSE, SOVIET REP (VOLKOV), AGO OF ITALY, VELDKAMP
OF NETHERLANDS AND GEORGE WEAVER OF US. ACCORDING TO SOHNS,
AGREEMENT WAS THAT WESTERN EUROPEAN CANDIDATE WOULD BE ELECTED
PRESIDENT OF ILO ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN 1972 AND THAT WHEN
EUROPE'S TURN CAME AGAIN IN 1976, EE CANDIDATE WOULD NOT BE
OPPOSED BUT IN FACT WOULD BE SUPPORTED BY WESTERN EUROPEANS.
SOHNS SAID AGREEMENT RESULTED FROM CONTESTED ELECTION FOR
CONFERENCE PRESIDENCY IN 1966 WHEN VELDKAMP LOST BY ONE VOTE

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TO POLISH CANDIDATE. IN 1972 VELDKAMP WAS ELECTED WITHOUT

OPPOSITION TO CONFERENCE PRESIDENCY.

3. COMMENT: BEFORE AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN GOES TO THE HAGUE IT WOULD BE WORTH KNOWING WHETHER WEAVER AND MORSE RECALL THIS AGREEMENT, REPORTEDLY MADE IN MORSE'S HOME. IT IS NOT CLEAR BUT SOHNS SEEMS TO HAVE IMPLIED THAT GON FEELS BOUND BY THIS AGREEMENT. IF SO, SOVIETS COULD EMBARRASS US, GON AND OTHER WE AND AGO (WHO IS ITALIAN GOVERNMENT MEMBER OF GB), BY PUTTING FORTH EE CANDIDATE FOR CONFERENCE PRESIDENCY AT LAST MOMENT AND CLAIMING PRIOR US AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT THEIR MAN. MEMCON HAS BEEN POUCHED TO IO (MOREY). DALE

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